

## THE MAUI NEWS

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### TOWN HALL MEETINGS.

THE new Haiku homesteaders have set an example of what might well be taken up on a larger scale by the people of Maui generally. The new comers have formed an organization which they call a farmers' club, but which is a good deal more than its name implies. It holds monthly meetings, and a good many extra ones thrown in for good measure. It meets at the Kuiaha school house and all kinds of things of general community interest are discussed. A program committee has something on tap at every meeting, and often an outside speaker is secured to discuss some special topic. The success of this new community is going to be due in no small part to its club.

Now Honolulu is trying to work up something along the same line. The proposition has been submitted by President George R. Carter, of the Chamber of Commerce that a general town meeting be held once each month for general discussion of matters of general interest. Special effort is to be made to get the view point of every class of citizen in Honolulu on these things. The idea is not new. Mr. Carter would call these gatherings "Town Hall meetings," after the old New England plan where the whole community got together and talked over their affairs in a more or less informal way. Everybody had a right to be heard on any subject. Things that everybody should be interested in, were put forward in a way that few could fail to be interested in.

Maui as a whole ought to be able to institute such an organization that would be especially effective. The community is not so large as to be unwieldy. At these Town Hall meetings it should be the aim to have every section represented either in person or through reports. Make the meetings educational, but largely as to our local affairs. There is plenty we don't know in this connection. Don't try to force issues that can't be forced—there is too much that can be agreed upon to risk disruption over minor matters.

### OVERRIDING LAWS.

THERE are a great many people in this Territory who will fully agree with the Garden Island in its following editorial:

The legislature evidently thought that an agricultural and mechanical fair at Honolulu in 1914 would be a good thing and was in line with the wishes of the voters of the Territory, otherwise the provision for such would not have been made. In the absence of any explanation, we are somewhat at sea in regard to the matter, but we certainly regard as most peculiar the action of the Governor in deliberately refusing to permit the law to take its course. The executive may have good reasons for holding up this proposition and law; but if so he has not found occasion to enlighten the public on the same. As a general proposition we view with much disfavor any disposition on the part of the executive to override mandatory laws of the people, as put forward by their representatives in the Legislature; and the executive should in no case attempt to throttle a statute, without first ascertaining that the move is in accord with the will of the people.

No politics enter into this discussion. There is nothing unfriendly intended nor to be implied. Our idea is, however, that if the executive is to assume the right to override mandatory enactments of the Legislature, we might as well do away with the Legislature altogether and let the governor make the laws to suit himself, in the first instance.

The practice of executives overriding statutes is not new in Hawaii. Every governor we have had has done more or less of it. But it is a dangerous habit when once formed, and we are hopeful that our new chief executive will break away from it before it has fastened itself upon him.

THE Honolulu Ad. Club which claims a membership of 578 prominent men, has issued a pamphlet entitled: "Nawiliwili Needs a Breakwater! Will You Help to Get It?" K ahului also needs another breakwater from the Waihee side of the harbor to make the harbor what it should be and to prevent the anchorage from sanding up from the current which now sets directly into it. Moreover this improvement has the full endorsement of the government engineers and should not be difficult to get through Congress. The Ad. Club would no doubt help Maui the same as it is helping the Kauai project. In fact the Ad. Club has indicated a keen desire to get in touch with us. If we don't take advantage of our opportunities we have no one but ourselves to blame.

HAWAII county has been building roads with Territorial prisoners for the last seven years. It started when A. L. C. Atkinson was acting governor during Carter's administration. Atkinson conceived the idea of building the road into the crater of Halemauau, and started the convicts working. They built that road and are now road building in Kau. When they get through there, says a Hilo exchange, it is the intention to put them to work on the Puna road. "Governor Jack" isn't in position to force Maui to accept a like favor and have a road built up Haleakala. If we want it (and also a share of Hawaii's tourist business) we shall probably have ask.

THE Governor is about to float some more Territorial bonds as authorized by the Legislature some years ago. He has not confided to Maui, however, how she is to fare in the matter—or perhaps it's none of our business.

VISITORS to Honolulu this week bring back word that the Ad. Club wants to know when we are going to have another get-together dinner. Who can answer?—don't all speak at once.

KAUAI is getting into the ranks of the get-together propagandists. The chamber of commerce of the Garden Island has adopted "lunch, con-sessions" as a means towards this end.

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